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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,409	06/27/2005	Robert James Laing	GH-PAK-0001	2836
47649	7590	10/06/2006	EXAMINER	
KENNETH M. FAGIN 136 SUMMER WALK DRIVE GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878			HUYNH, LOUIS K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3721	
DATE MAILED: 10/06/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20060928

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.
2. This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.
3. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.
 - Group I, claim(s) 1-7, drawn to a flexible pouch.
 - Group II, claim(s) 8-22, drawn to a container.
 - Group III, claim(s) 23-27, drawn to a pallet.
 - Group IV, claim(s) 28-52, drawn to a packaging system.
 - Group V, claim(s) 53-59, drawn to a method of maneuvering pouches.
 - Group VI, claim(s) 6072, drawn to a system for handling containers.
 - Group VII, claim(s) 73-92, drawn to a pallet handling apparatus.
 - Group VIII, claim(s) 93-99, drawn to a filling and heat sealing apparatus.
 - Group IX, claim(s) 100-106, drawn to a seal integrity monitoring system.
 - Group X, claim(s) 107-111, drawn to a method for inspecting a seal.
4. The inventions listed as Groups I-X do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the open bottom as required in group II; and group II does not need the special technical feature of the closed base as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the plurality of locators as required in group III; and group III does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of stackable containers as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the transparent region in one of the pouch's walls as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of a camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.

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- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.
- Group I does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the front and rear panels of the pouch being jointed along opposite side edges as required in group I.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the pallet body as required in group III; and group III does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.

- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group II does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the supporting elements as required in group II.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the transporter as required in group IV; and group IV does not need the special technical feature of pallet body as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of transporter as required in group V; and group V does not need the special technical feature of pallet body as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.

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- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the locator elements as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the locators as required in group III.
- Group III does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the locators as required in group III.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of either the ancillary processing station or the packaging station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the first and second carriages as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the ancillary processing station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the ancillary processing station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.

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- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.
- Group IV does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the packaging station as required in group IV.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the carriage as required in group VI; and group VI does not need the special technical feature of the filling and heat sealing means as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.
- Group V does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the transporter for transporting containers as required in group V.

- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the conveyors for conveying pallets as required in group VII; and group VII does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VI does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the carriages for moving the containers as required in group VI.
- Group VII does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group VIII; and group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying the pallets as required in group VII.
- Group VII does not need the special technical feature of the camera as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the conveyor for conveying the pallets as required in group VII.
- Group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the translucent region on one side of the pouch as required in group IX; and group IX does not need the special technical feature of the moving means as required in group VIII.

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- Group VIII does not need the special technical feature of the translucent region on one side of the pouch as required in group X; and group X does not need the special technical feature of the moving means as required in group VIII.
- Group X does not need the special technical feature of the light source as required in group IX because the transparent region on the pouch of group X can be irradiated with other energy sources such as microwave, for example.

5. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

6. The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

7. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

8. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the

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currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louis K. Huynh whose telephone number is 571-272-4462. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00AM to 3:00PM.

10. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi I. Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Louis K. Huynh
Primary Examiner
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September 29, 2006